

Cannexus26

Sunday, Jan 25: Room 201

09:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Building Hope: A Hands-on Approach to Career Conversations with LEGO and Metaphors

Room 201

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Andrea Fruhling

Founding Director, Doubleknot Works

Join this hands-on learning experience with Andrea Fruhling and discover the power of metaphors in career conversations through LEGO® Serious Play®. This interactive session offers an innovative approach to career conversations, using LEGO to build tactile metaphors and deepen awareness at all stages of the career development process. Whether you're working 1:1 with clients, facilitating group sessions or wanting to support teams in your organization, you'll leave with easy-to-implement strategies that can be adapted to suit a range of career development processes. Learn to work with LEGO Serious Play methodologies to help clients think about who they are in a ...

Sunday, Jan 25: Room 201

01:00 PM - 05:00 PM

AI Leadership Lab: Exploring Governance and Implementation in Career Services

Room 201

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Donnalee Bell

Co-CEO, CCDF

Gillian Johnston

Retired Professor (George Brown College), CDPCBO

Mark Patterson

Executive Director, Magnet

Sareena Hopkins

CEO, Canadian Career Development Foundation

This pre-conference session is designed for executive directors, senior managers and others in leadership roles across community agencies, government, post-secondary institutions, employment services and private practice. Artificial intelligence is no longer a future consideration – it's already reshaping how career development professionals deliver services, make decisions and plan for impact. With tools ranging from resume and interview support to real-time labour-market insights, and personalized career pathway guidance, leaders face pressing questions: What safeguards are in place? Who is being left behind? How do we lead this transformation responsibly? This timely, half-day session offers a collaborative environment to explore: How to assess, pilot and ...

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 3

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Exhibitor Showcase

Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Parliamentary Foyer

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Registration

Parliamentary Foyer

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-3

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Breakfast

Canada Hall 1-3

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Room 210

07:30 AM - 08:15 AM

First Timers' Session

Room 210

In-Person

First time at Cannexus? Then this session, designed to help maximize the conference experience, is for you! You'll have the chance to get an overview of Cannexus, participate in an ice-breaker networking activity and meet other delegates.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 202

08:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Quiet Room

Room 202

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

08:30 AM - 09:35 AM

Opening Ceremony

Canada Hall 1-2 English French Hybrid

Meet your Cannexus26 emcees Shereen Ashman (Afua) builds cultural capacity across learning and leadership ecosystems. The 2025 recipient of the King Charles Award for Service and Leadership, she is a multi-award-winning innovator, creating programs and training that impact career development, community building and post-secondary education. Patrick Hebert, Project Manager at the Canadian Career Development Foundation (CCDF), took an unconventional path into career development and never looked back. As a Building a New Era (BNE) facilitator with the Career Development Professional Centre (CDPC), he shares curiosity, energy and humour to help others find their way. This year, we are honoured to welcome Elder Claudette ...

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 3

09:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Exhibitor Showcase and Coffee Break

Canada Hall 3 In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

10:00 AM - 11:05 AM

Main Stage: Moving Beyond Trauma-informed Approaches: Expanding Engagement for Possibilities

Canada Hall 1-2 English French Hybrid Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Catherine Hajnal

Grief and Trauma Educator, Life Fundamentals

Seanna Quressette

Coordinator, Continuing Education, Douglas College

A risk of trauma-informed approaches is that we become anchored in events and deficit-based perspectives. Using grief models, metaphor, the notion of duality and the concept of assumptive world, we will explore the undercurrents of potential and possibility in the people we serve. Recognize the trauma-informed ways we are super connectors and seers of potential.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 201

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Propulser la dynamique d'équipe en boostant la collaboration

Room 201 French In-Person Senior Leaders Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Julie Belley

Fondatrice, Rebelleyus inc.

Dans un monde du travail en constante évolution, la collaboration devient essentielle. Cette séance interactive propose une activité ludique et surprenante pour explorer les dynamiques d'équipe, renforcer la cohésion, stimuler la créativité et accroître la performance collective.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 209

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Happily Ever After: Navigating Retirement from Both Sides of the Desk

Room 209

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Donnalee Bell

Co-CEO, CCDF

Patrick Hebert

Project Manager, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Guiding transitions is our wheelhouse – but what happens when we face our own? This session explores retirement through both personal and professional lenses. Whether you're planning your next chapter, supporting others through theirs or just curious, we'll reframe retirement from an ending into a new beginning. Together, we'll explore how to navigate this stage with purpose, possibility and a fresh perspective on "what's next."

Monday, Jan 26: Room 210

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Post-secondary Career Centres: Sustaining Canada's Career and Talent Ecosystem

Room 210

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Christine Sjolander

Associate Dean, Okanagan College

Trevor Buttrum

Executive Director, Canadian Association of Career Educators & Employers (CACEE)

In a fireside chat, explore findings from CACEE's 2025 national survey benchmarking the services, resources and key metrics of post-secondary career centres. Hear from the lead researcher and sector leaders on emerging trends, innovations, strategic applications of the research, and the role career centres play in sustaining Canada's career and talent ecosystem.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 213/215

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Bundles Unlocked – Reimagining Career Pathways Through Indigenous Youth Voices

Room 213/215

English

In-Person

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Jason Shawana

Executive Director, NPAAMB Indigenous Youth Employment & Training

Explore how NPAAMB's innovative Bundles program development model and approach transforms career pathways by centring Indigenous youth voices. Engage in dynamic conversations about integrating cultural identity, holistic healing and wellness, and youth-led action planning into impactful career development. Learn strategies to authentically empower Indigenous youth to shape their career journeys through culturally grounded practices.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 205/207

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Prompting Success: Coaching Jobseekers to Leverage GenAI for Interviews

Room 205/207

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Jason Andrada

Career Co-ordinator, Ted Rogers School of Management

Jennifer Bradley

Career Education Specialist, Toronto Metropolitan University

Megan MacLennan

Career Education Specialist, Toronto Metropolitan University

Recently, the interview process has been affected and transformed by artificial intelligence (AI). These emerging trends, sparked by innovations in technology and a changing labour market, have created new opportunities and challenges for jobseekers and employers. Our interactive workshop will provide strategies, ethical considerations and practical AI prompts with the objective of enhancing career professionals' ability to guide jobseekers in leveraging AI for interview practice.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 204

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Why Being a CCDP Matters for You, Your Clients and Communities

Room 204

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Ashley Halverson

Program Advisor, Career Certification

Lindsay Guitard

Registrar, Career Certification/NSCDA

Tara Deveau

Program Assessor, Career Certification/NSCDA

Earning the Certified Career Development Practitioner (CCDP) designation is more than a credential – it's a commitment to professional excellence, community well-being and public trust. This session will explore how certification empowers professionals to validate their skills, enhance client services and contribute to standardized, quality career support nationwide. Join the conversation on raising the profile of our essential profession.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 214

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

The Efficacy of Peer Supports for Career Learning Among Vulnerable Sector Youth

Room 214

English

In-Person

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

John Heckbert

Executive Director, Operation Come Home

Meredith Lyman

Executive Director, Operation Come Home

In this session, John Heckbert will present on a new employment initiative through which Operation Come Home created and launched a program engaging peer support workers to help vulnerable youth make progress on their career objectives. The program was developed using an initial framework created by researchers at Carleton University, which was then refined by Operation Come Home's staff and program participants, resulting in a new, hybrid model for use in the vulnerable sector.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 206/208

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Context Counts: Influences on Employability, Engagement and Work Maintenance

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Roberta Borgen

President, Life Strategies Ltd

William (Bill) Borgen

Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia

It is well documented that an individual's context, including access to supports and resources over time, along with their personal beliefs/perspectives about available opportunities, affects their employability. This session will integrate Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems model, Neault and Pickerell's Career Engagement model, and Borgen and Amundson's research on employment readiness and work transitions to identify practical strategies for enhancing employment readiness and career success.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 212

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Ready, Set, Publish: Your Guide to Career Development Writing

Room 212

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Diana Boyd

Associate Editor, CJCD, Memorial University

Jennifer Browne

Director, Student Life, Memorial University

Keka DasGupta

Vice Chair of the CERIC Board and Founder, Principal, Art of Life-ing, Precision Marketing Group Inc

This panel brings together editors and writers to reveal what it takes to get published today – from academic journals, to blogs, magazines, op-eds and books. Learn how to craft compelling pieces and navigate the submissions process through platforms like the Canadian Journal of Career Development and CareerWise. Whether you're new to writing or ready to publish, gain tools and inspiration to amplify your voice.

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-3

11:00 AM - 11:10 AM

Break

Canada Hall 1-3

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

11:10 AM - 12:15 PM

Main Stage: Canadian Students' Perspectives on Careers and Career Development: 2026

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Graham Donald

Founder and President, Brainstorm Strategy Group

Julie Rahmer

Learning, Research and Engagement Lead, Brainstorm Strategy Group

Featuring insights from the 2025 Student Career Interests Report (a study of more than 20,000 post-secondary students), this presentation will provide the most recent look at students' career interests, employer preferences and career development experiences. Improve your understanding of students' motivations, how to engage them, and how to better support their job search and career transition.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 210

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Essential Practices for Job Development in the Tech Sector

Room 210

English

In-Person

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Bert Anderson

Consultant, Unpacking Tech

Achieving success in tech job development goes beyond simply networking with tech recruiters, creating technical resumes and searching the internet for tech positions. It also entails identifying and targeting tech companies based on their specific focus, comprehending their essential hiring criteria and aligning IT job seekers with the suitable tech industry. This workshop equips job developers with invaluable tech recruiting knowledge typically known only to tech recruiters.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 205/207

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Job Search by Heart: An AI-supported Transformational Path to Purposeful Work

Room 205/207

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Jim Woodbridge

Principal, Job Search by Heart

What if a job search began not with resumes – but with remembering who you are? Job Search by Heart is a story-rich, presence-based approach that redefines how we guide others toward meaningful work. Grounded in a nine-stage methodology and supported by an empathetic AI companion, this model helps clients reconnect with purpose, name their strengths and move forward with clarity – not panic. With tools like the Heart Map and Future Self Resume, explore how a soulful strategy gets results.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 212

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

K5T Engagement Model: Creating Opportunities from the Ground Up

Room 212

English

In-Person

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Brigitte Watts

Five Tier Coordinator, K5T

Jorden Squires

Employment Developer, K5T

Tiyanee Stevens

K5T Coordinator, K5T

Discover how K5T delivers impactful, equity-driven learning and employment programs tailored to Indigenous people of the region. This session will explore the innovative design, implementation and community partnerships that power our specialized initiatives – from short-term work experiences to customized youth engagement and skill development pathways.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 201

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Carrière et mieux-être après 45 ans : intervenir autrement

Room 201

French

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Louis Cournoyer

Professeur titulaire, Université du Québec à Montréal

Avec la participation de Lise Lachance, chercheuse principale du projet associé, cet atelier explore comment soutenir les personnes travailleuses expérimentées face à l'âgeisme, aux transitions, à l'évolution technologique et aux enjeux identitaires, à partir du modèle d'action décisionnelle adaptative et d'une recherche auprès de 500 Québécois, pour favoriser adaptation, développement personnel et professionnel.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 214

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Cultivating Curiosity in Organizations and Classrooms

Room 214

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Samuel Rose

Associate Professor, Risho University

In the 21st century, successful and innovative organizations are seeking curious workers. Resilient individuals who can ask creative and thought-provoking questions and/or have the confidence to fail while being curious are in demand. Viewers of this presentation will learn how to inspire and cultivate curiosity in their workplaces and/or classrooms. Are you curious? Are your clients curious?

Monday, Jan 26: Room 213/215

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Driving Workforce Development Success: Leveraging Data and Evaluation for Impact

Room 213/215

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Joshua Redhair

Vice President, Strategic Insight and Innovation, NPower Canada

Nisha Lewis

Chief Operating Officer, NPower Canada

Workforce development organizations face constant disruption, from rapid tech changes to evolving labour demands. This session explores how data-driven decision making – leveraging tools like Tableau, Vicinity Jobs and Automated Talent Matching Systems – helps organizations adapt quickly. We'll also share insights from our randomized controlled trial to demonstrate how rigorous evaluation supports program improvement and strengthens funding outcomes.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 204

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Thinking Big: Activating Big Career Ideas on Campus

Room 204

English

In-Person

Senior Leaders

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Cathy Keates

Assistant Dean, Student Affairs, Queen's University

Meg Ferriman

Senior Director, Student Experience and Career Development, Queen's University

Queen's Career Services has designed and launched several initiatives that have had campus and sector-level engagement, including the Major Maps, It All Adds Up, Skills Cards and the latest – Work with Impact: Queen's Career Guide to the UN SDGs. In this session, we'll "think big" and review strategies for designing, delivering and implementing at scale on your campus.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 206/208

11:10 AM - 12:10 PM

Active Career Wayfinding with Metaphors, Storytelling and Hope

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Andrea Fruhling

Founding Director, Doubleknot Works

In today's fast-paced world, career journeys often lead into uncharted territory – a liminal space. In this interactive session, learn how to actively support clients using Career Wayfinding activities such as mapping, storytelling and metaphors, to gain new insights and support accountability for clients in one-on-one and group contexts. This session will provide a solid foundation for practice, helping to build hope, increase self-confidence and support greater client agency.

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-3

12:10 PM - 12:20 PM

Break

Canada Hall 1-3

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

12:20 PM - 12:45 PM

Presentation of Wileman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Career Development

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-3

12:40 PM - 01:40 PM

Lunch

Canada Hall 1-3

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Room 209

01:05 PM - 01:35 PM

Discover NSCDA: Supporting Career Development Professionals

Room 209

In-Person

Connie Corse

Training Manager, NSCDA

Teresa Francis

Director of Learning and Professional Practice, NSCDA

Join us to explore the Nova Scotia Career Development Association (NSCDA) and learn how we support career development professionals through training, certification, resources and networking opportunities. This session highlights our programs, services and initiatives to strengthen practice, advance professional standards and foster a thriving career development community.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 201

01:05 PM - 01:35 PM

Unlocking Innovation: Harnessing CampusExchange for Business Growth and Workforce Development

Room 201

English

In-Person

Andrea Krasznai

Program Manager, Technology and Open Access, eCampusOntario

Don Eldridge

Program Manager for Collaborative Sector Engagement, eCampus Ontario

Leverage higher education partnerships to propel Canadian industry forward. Discover how CampusExchange connects businesses with 56 postsecondary institutions to drive innovation, upskilling, and work-integrated learning. Learn practical strategies to adopt AI, accelerate product development, and expand globally. Join our interactive session and explore solutions for workforce challenges and industry growth.

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

01:40 PM - 02:45 PM

Main Stage: What Indigenous Learners Need for Career Education

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Anca McHollister

Darian Kovacs

Partner, Jelly Academy

John DeGiacomo

Executive Director, Anishinabek Employment and Training Services

Katherine Kurugaq Ciboci

Capacity Manager, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation

Lynn White

In this session, hear from various perspectives (including Métis, First Nations and Inuit) about what is needed for their learners. Presenters will share ideas and best practices for recruiting, supporting and placing Indigenous learners, drawing on the report *Enhancing Educational Outcomes: A National Report on Supporting Indigenous Learners in Canadian Post-Secondary Institutions*. Participants will receive feedback on how they can raise support levels for Indigenous learners.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 213/215

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Career Development Centres of Expertise: How Organizations Shape A Better Future of Work

Room 213/215

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Lisa Taylor

Founder and CEO, Challenge Factory

Sheila Rider

Associate, Challenge Factory

How can employers and CDPs partner to reimagine career development inside organizations? Drawing on new research and tools from a CERIC-funded project, this session explores how internal Career Development Centres of Expertise can transform workforce strategies. Learn about employer-CDP partnerships and how AI-augmented processes were used throughout the project.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 205/207

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Carousels - Day 1

Room 205/207

English

In-Person

Carousels consist of two 25-minute sessions and are a great way to learn in a less formal setting. Delegates choose a roundtable then rotate to another table of their choice after 25 minutes. Carousels accommodate 15 attendees per table.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 214

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

A Virtual Hub for Career Development Managers/Leaders

Room 214

English

In-Person

Senior Leaders

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Patrick Hebert

Project Manager, Canadian Career Development Foundation

A 2024 study exploring the experiences of leaders in career/employment services surfaced a vast array of information. From there, the research team worked on a virtual hub to help managers/leaders navigate their complex work environments. The hub includes a competency framework, self-assessment tool and links to associated resources. Join the project leads for a first look at this new sector resource.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 209

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

ARISE: Apprenticeship Readiness Inventory and Skills Evaluation

Room 209

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Tamara Kaattari

Project Manager and Program Development Officer, Literacy Link South Central

The skills required in the trades go beyond being good with your hands. Foundational skills like math, written and verbal communication, problem solving, and interpersonal skills help people get and keep a job. Through foundational skills assessments, personalized case management, learning challenge assessments and customized support, the ARISE Initiative is moving the needle on apprenticeship success, leading to successful training completion.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 206/208

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Human Stories Matter: Enhancing AI with Narrative Career Inputs

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Heidi Heung

Client Service Lead, OneLifeTools

Jim Woodbridge

Principal, Job Search by Heart

Mark Franklin

instructor | co-founder, University of Toronto | OneLifeTools

What happens when AI tools receive more than just a resume? This interactive session explores how personal stories – expressed through narrative clarification statements – enhance AI-generated career outputs. Compare results from different inputs and discover how blending human story with tech creates more meaningful career guidance. Ideal for leaders, educators and practitioners integrating AI ethically and effectively into practice.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 201

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Employabilité autochtone : recherche et formation de pointe à l'UQAT

Room 201

French

In-Person

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Joanie Caron

Professeure, Université du Québec en Abitibi-Témiscamingue

Les recherches menées à l'École d'études autochtones de l'UQAT en collaboration avec des partenaires autochtones et industriels ont permis d'identifier les facteurs favorisant la formation, le recrutement, l'insertion professionnelle et la rétention de la main-d'œuvre autochtone. Ces solutions soutiennent le développement socioéconomique des communautés, tout en répondant aux besoins des entreprises confrontées à la rareté de main-d'œuvre au Canada.

Monday, Jan 26: Room 210

01:40 PM - 02:40 PM

Facing Employer Engagement Challenges? Bring Them Here

Room 210

English

In-Person

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Angela Hoyt

CEO, Evolution Group

In this interactive session, test-drive the Employer Engagement AI Coach, trained on Angela Hoyt's Optimize Employer Engagement Model. You'll leave with practical strategies, new professional connections, and an AI-powered support system to help you strengthen employer relationships and improve outcomes.

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 3

02:40 PM - 03:15 PM

Exhibitor Showcase and Coffee Break

Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: Canada Hall 1-2

03:15 PM - 04:50 PM

Keynote 1: Making the Invisible Visible: Celebrating Career Practitioners in the Age of AI

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Sonny Wong

Career-focused Counsellor, Toronto Metropolitan University

Our service delivery model has continuously evolved to meet our clients' complex needs. During each evolution era, career development practitioners (CDPs) have upskilled to maintain client service excellence. We have strived to help our clients flourish during their most challenging life stages. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is in the spotlight! It affects us and our clients in unknown ways. Our challenge is to learn how to ethically integrate AI into our client service delivery without dehumanizing our clients and delegitimizing our profession. This keynote brings to light CDPs' invisible work by taking you on a thought-provoking journey. How can we maintain our career identity ...

Monday, Jan 26: Parliamentary Foyer / Canada Hall 3

06:00 PM - 08:00 PM

Welcome Reception and Exhibitor Showcase

Parliamentary Foyer / Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Monday, Jan 26: The Brig Pub · 23 York St, Ottawa

07:00 PM - 08:30 PM

Réseautage Francophones/Francophiles

The Brig Pub · 23 York St, Ottawa

Rejoignez-nous pour un rassemblement informel des francophones et francophiles présents à Ottawa pour Cannexus26! Comme chaque année, nous vous invitons, dans une ambiance décontractée, à nous retrouver dans un bar-restaurant proche du Centre Rogers afin de partager un verre ensemble et d'avoir l'opportunité de faire connaissance avec vos collègues francophones et francophiles présents avec nous. Contactez-nous à cyrielle@ceric.ca pour confirmer votre présence, ou rejoignez-nous directement au Brig Pub · 23 rue York, Ottawa à 19h00! Join us for an informal gathering of francophones and francophiles attending Cannexus26 in Ottawa! As we do every year, we invite you to meet in a ...

Tuesday, Jan 27: Parliamentary Foyer

07:00 AM - 08:30 PM

Registration

Parliamentary Foyer

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-3

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Breakfast

Canada Hall 1-3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 3

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Exhibitor Showcase

Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

08:30 AM - 09:15 AM

Opening Day 2

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Leslie Church

Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretaries of State for Labour, for Seniors, and for Children and Youth, and to the Minister of Jobs and Families (Persons with Disabilities)

Leslie Church, Member of Parliament for Toronto-St. Paul's, will appear on the Cannexus Main Stage on Tuesday, January 27 at 8:30 am. She will speak to the future of work and the essential role of career development in supporting Canadians through uncertainty.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 3

09:00 AM - 09:30 AM

Exhibitor Showcase

Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

09:30 AM - 10:35 AM

Main Stage: Reflections, Milestones and the Future of Career Development: A Special Session Celebrating 20 Years of Cannexus

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Candy Ho

Past CERIC Board Chair and Chancellor's Chair & Educational Studies Faculty, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

Keka DasGupta

Vice Chair of the CERIC Board and Founder, Principal, Art of Life-ing, Precision Marketing Group Inc

Louis Cournoyer

Professeur titulaire, Université du Québec à Montréal

Rich Feller

Executive Director, CareerDevelopmentNetwork.org

As we commemorate two decades of Cannexus, this special anniversary session brings together influential leaders who have contributed to both the conference and the wider career development field through their research, practice and community engagement. Drawing on their diverse experiences in counselling, education and sector leadership, the panelists will reflect on pivotal ideas and challenges from the past 20 years, noting what has changed, what continues to matter and what new factors are shaping the future. Their insights will explore how career development supports people in navigating change, strengthening purpose and building meaningful futures. This session invites attendees to honour ...

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 213/215

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Menopause and Career - How to Thrive in This Stage of Life

Room 213/215

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Krista Steeves

Owner/Senior Therapist, Bloom House Counselling

Menopause is having a moment, despite it being a significant life event that impacts woman's physical, emotional and professional well-being, it is rarely been discussed, until now. With over 10 million women in Canada over the age of 40 according it's time to discuss it's impact on women's careers. I propose examining the effects of menopause on women's health, their professional life and some suggested supports for individuals and industry.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 214

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Stop Calling It Help: Aligning Service Design with Human Psychology

Room 214

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Sarah Delicate

Founding Partner, BBMD

Thousands of clients remain trapped in service cycles that look supportive but miss the mark. This session asks the hard question: What if what we call "help" is part of the harm? We'll break down the psychological mechanics that drive human behaviour ... and show how our systems consistently sideline them. Change Talk isn't a technique, it's a lens. If we want different outcomes, we must build services that reflect how humans actually think, feel and change. Walk away ready to do something different.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 212

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Cultural Curiosity as a Driver for Professional Success in Canada

Room 212

English

In-Person

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Inna Rozum-Tuka

Managing Director, Quiet Tenacity Inc

Cultural curiosity – the intentional desire to learn from and about people different from oneself – is a powerful, often underestimated, asset in today's Canadian workplaces. It goes beyond ethnicity or nationality, extending to how we understand differences in communication, values, work styles, and even generational and sectoral norms. This session positions cultural curiosity as a core driver of professional growth, successful collaboration and leadership potential in Canada's workplaces

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 201

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Des parents alliés au développement vie-carrière : une utopie?

Room 201

French

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Diane LeBreton

Professeure, Université de Moncton

Le rôle des parents en tant qu'alliés dans la démarche de réalisation du projet vie-carrière de leur enfant a fait l'objet d'une étude dans le cadre d'une expérimentation au sein de quelques écoles francophones du Nouveau-Brunswick. Les résultats sont prometteurs en ce qui a trait au sentiment de confiance perçu de la part des parents ayant pris part à l'étude.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 206/208

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Coaching the Future: Transforming Leadership and Well-being in Career Development

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Senior Leaders

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Lama Shaath

Certified Organizational Coach, Leadership Development, Certified Career and Work-Life Integration Strategist and Transformation Life Coach, Lama Shaath - Mine Your Inner Power Coaching

As the career development sector becomes increasingly complex, adaptive and human-centred leadership is essential. This session explores how coaching mindsets can help organizations and leaders enhance team engagement, support staff well-being, and prepare future-ready leaders. Drawing on Lama Shaath's dual credentials in career development and organizational coaching, along with 20 years in work-life well-being coaching, you'll gain practical tools to lead with clarity, compassion and impact.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 210

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

The Neuroinclusive Coach: Tools for Supporting Jobseekers Who Think Differently

Room 210

English

In-Person

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Sarah Taylor

Principal Consultant/CEO, Next Level ASD Consulting

This interactive workshop equips Career Development Professionals with practical tools for coaching neurodivergent clients. Learn strengths-based strategies, practise real-life scenarios, and walk away with scripts, worksheets, and tips for supporting clients with autism, ADHD and more. Whether you're new to neurodiversity or want to sharpen your skills, this session offers hands-on learning you can apply right away.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 205/207

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Applied Improv: Play with Purpose

Room 205/207

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Summer Burton

Executive Director, Literacy Link South Central

Improv is a form of unscripted theatre, but don't worry – this workshop isn't about putting you in the spotlight! It is about applied improv, which digs into the "rules" of improv and how they can build important transferable skills. Improv can help jobseekers build skills including listening and observation, verbal and non-verbal communication, creativity and problem-solving, mindfulness and resilience.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 209

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

Play as Exploration for Lifelong, Life-wide Career Education

Room 209

English

In-Person

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Lorraine Godden

Educator and Researcher, Douglas College

Seanna Quressette

Coordinator, Continuing Education, Douglas College

Through play, children explore and engage with the world developing transferable skills, but play happens less as children navigate the K-12 system. Through this interactive workshop, we recognize the crucial role of play and explore ways to preserve play, recognizing the alignment between the curiosity and creativity developed through play and the guiding principles of equitable career education.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 204

09:30 AM - 10:30 AM

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Labour Market Information

Room 204

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Ken Chatoor

Director of Research and Strategic Foresight, Labour Market Information Council | Le Conseil de l'information sur le marché du travail

Louise Ferbach

Data Scientist, Labour Market Information Council

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is quietly reshaping the data and tools career practitioners use every day – especially online job postings (OJP). But how accurate are these postings? And what role does AI really play in their collection? In this session, LMIC breaks down how OJP data is collected and processed using AI and machine learning, what the limitations are and how you can use this information more effectively when advising jobseekers.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 3

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM

Exhibitor Showcase and Coffee Break

Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

10:45 AM - 11:50 AM

Main Stage: Make Learning Work for You

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Annika Laale

Project Director, Canadian Career Development Foundation

David Redekopp

President, Life-Role Development Group Ltd.

Many learning opportunities still rely on outdated methods, focusing on content and its delivery rather than actual learning. Do courses or webinars truly change how we serve others – and, if so, for how long? This session invites you to explore what's missing in professional development. Discover how to create meaningful, lasting impact through more effective learning experiences!

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 204

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Transforming Self-doubt into Self-belief: Empower Yourself as a Professional

Room 204

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Peggy Kelly

Manager of Workplace Language Training, World Skills Employment Centre

Shaye Belanger

Presenter, Full Circle Immigrant Services

Self-doubt can quietly undermine even the most capable professionals, holding us back from taking risks, owning our accomplishments and advancing in our careers. This empowering session explores the root of self-doubt and how it shows up in professional spaces. Through reflection, discussion and practical strategies, participants will learn how to re-frame limiting beliefs, build authentic confidence and step into their full potential.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 206/208

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Future-proof Careers: What Practitioners Need to Know About AI and Ethics

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Norman Valdez

Director, Technology and Design, Marketing and Communications, CERIC

Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming job search, hiring and career pathways. This session offers practical strategies for career practitioners to support clients in adapting to AI-driven changes, with a focus on ethical considerations, equity and real-world tools. Gain actionable insights to navigate the evolving workforce and empower diverse communities for success.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 212

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Finish Well Beyond 50: Gain Impact and Scale with Older Adults to Live with Grace, Dignity and Mischief

Room 212

English

In-Person

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Heidi Heung

Client Service Lead, OneLifeTools

Rich Feller

Executive Director, CareerDevelopmentNetwork.org

Experience and evaluate the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's Colorado State University program helping adults find community, reframe retirement, and gain clarity and confidence about "what's next." Access key methods, activities and tools to replicate with your clients, community or institution. This program (always over-subscribed) includes four short courses, one full-day retreat and follow-up activities.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 205/207

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Moving Beyond Accommodations: Redesigning Workplaces for Disability Inclusion

Room 205/207

English

In-Person

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Mahadeo Sukhai

Chief Operating Officer, IDEA-STEM

STEM workplaces often rely on reactive accommodations instead of proactive, inclusive design. Drawing on research in the natural resource sciences, this session examines structural, cultural and procedural barriers faced by disabled scientists, from inaccessible procurement processes to exclusionary fieldwork expectations. Participants will learn practical strategies to embed accessibility into organizational culture, policies and infrastructure to build truly inclusive work environments.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 210

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

ChatterHigh for K-12: Make Career Education the Most Important Course in School

Room 210

English

In-Person

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Laura Briscoe

Education Consultant, ChatterHigh Communications Inc.

Lee Taal

CEO/Founder, ChatterHigh

Join TEDx speaker Lee Taal as he explores how hope, wellness and purpose fuel future-ready students. Attendees receive ready-to-assign resources funded by content authorities such as Learn About Your Taxes (CRA), AI Literacy (Digital Moment), Careers in Air Traffic Services (NAV CANADA) and more. Activities are gamified and self-assessing, covering career exploration, financial literacy, mental health, science and more. Learn how schools compete in Let's Talk Careers, with a \$100,000 prize pot.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 209

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Frameworks for Thriving in a Non-linear Career Reality

Room 209

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Carli Fink

Founder | Workforce and Learning Consultant, Foreseeable Futures | Challenge Factory

Were career paths ever really linear? If so, they certainly aren't anymore – but most people still approach careers as if they are, or should be. This workshop will describe the economic and social factors driving the growth of non-linear career paths, introduce participants to frameworks for effectively managing non-linear careers, and demonstrate tools you can use to help yourselves and your clients thrive in this reality.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 214

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Beyond Inclusion: Designing Culturally Responsive Career Ecosystems

Room 214

English

In-Person

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Akshay Arora

Career Advisor, Yorkville University

In culturally diverse institutions, many people, including international and racialized learners, disengage from services shaped by Western norms of success. Participants will explore three layered frameworks – Culturally Responsive Teaching & Learning (CRT/L), cultural intelligence (CQ) and cultural humility – and apply them through collaborative activities. Attendees will leave with clear steps to create culturally attuned career programs and ecosystems that foster trust and belonging.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 213/215

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Making Skills Measurable: Why Every Sector Leader Needs an Impact Blueprint

Room 213/215

English

In-Person

Senior Leaders

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Caitlin McDonough

Chief Learning Officer, Prepr

Peter Szyzlo

Research Lead, Prepr

As the world of work evolves, sector leaders face growing pressure to measure impact meaningfully and equitably. This session shares early insights from Prepr's Impact Measurement Blueprint, supported by the Government of Canada, highlighting common challenges and emerging opportunities. Explore how career development organizations can strengthen their measurement practices to better reflect real outcomes for youth and equity-deserving communities.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 201

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM

Recrutement inclusif : un facteur clé de succès organisationnel

Room 201

French

In-Person

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Basile Bakumbane

Agent de soutien à l'inclusion, Collège Boréal

Shaghayegh Mardasi

Agente de soutien à l'inclusion, Collège Boréal

Cette présentation souligne l'importance d'un recrutement inclusif comme levier stratégique. Elle met en lumière les biais inconscients, propose des outils concrets pour des pratiques équitables, et démontre comment la diversité renforce l'agilité, la créativité et la performance des organisations. Recruter inclusivement, c'est bâtir des équipes plus fortes, représentatives et prêtes à relever les défis du monde du travail actuel.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-3

11:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Break

Canada Hall 1-3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

12:00 PM - 01:05 PM

Keynote 2: Redefine Possible: Lessons for Tackling Mountains in Your Personal and Professional World

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Spencer West

Motivational Speaker, Content creator & Human Rights Activist

Spencer West invites audiences to experience the transformation that can occur when we “redefine possible”. With his trademark humour and humility, West spins a spellbinding story of the challenges he faced after losing his legs from the pelvis down at age five, and the journey of discovery that ultimately enabled him to summit Mount Kilimanjaro using his hands and wheelchair. West applies the insights gleaned from a lifetime of overcoming obstacles to help leaders and employees identify their own roadblocks and push past them. His inspiring message and tangible life lessons motivate business audiences to believe they can tackle any ...

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-3

01:00 PM - 02:00 PM

Lunch

Canada Hall 1-3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

01:30 PM - 02:35 PM

Plenary Session: Scaling Skills – Insights from the Frontlines of Labour Market Innovation

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Dr. Tricia Williams

Director of Research, Evaluation and Knowledge Mobilization, Future Skills Centre

Karen Myers

President and CEO, Blueprint

Sasha Tregebov

Managing Director, BIT Canada

Suhayl Patel

Associate Dean, Bow Valley College

Drawing on an analysis of 1,000+ project proposals, this session reveals how innovators across Canada are tackling skills gaps from health care to green and AI transitions. Based on Future Skills Centre’s partnerships and research, panellists will unpack what’s working, where barriers persist and what patterns show promise. Expect insights on inclusion, system change and the future of workforce resilience.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 204

01:45 PM - 04:45 PM

Indigenous Blanket Exercise 2

Room 204

English

In-Person

Please read the attached instructions and protocols prior to attending the session. It is recommended that all participants enter the space at least 15 minutes prior to the start time to allow for set up of the blankets, chairs, etc. There's a limit of 40 attendees and it's based on first-come first-served basis. Please note that latecomers cannot be permitted to the session because once the facilitators have opened the circle, it is then too disruptive to allow entrants in. Explore the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada through the Indigenous Blanket Exercise. It is an interactive ...

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 203

01:45 PM - 04:45 PM

Indigenous Blanket Exercise 1

Room 203

English

In-Person

Please read the attached instructions and protocols prior to attending the session. It is recommended that all participants enter the space at least 15 minutes prior to the start time to allow for set up of the blankets, chairs, etc. There's a limit of 40 attendees and it's based on first-come first-served basis. Please note that latecomers cannot be permitted to the session because once the facilitators have opened the circle, it is then too disruptive to allow entrants in. Explore the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada through the Indigenous Blanket Exercise. It is an interactive ...

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 3

02:30 PM - 02:45 PM

Exhibitor Showcase and Coffee Break

Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

02:45 PM - 03:50 PM

Main Stage: AI and Innovation Trends You Need to Know: Reimagining Career Development in Canada

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Denis Gravelle

Strategic Partnerships, Devant-Kibbi

Canada's labour market is evolving due to economic forces, immigration and AI. You will discover insights into the latest LMI trends and AI strategies. We will discuss the concept of AI+HI (artificial intelligence + human intellect), a powerful framework for delivering a personalized, scalable and human-centred approach. We will showcase how AI is transforming service delivery, providing examples of how technology can enhance client outcomes through smarter and more efficient support.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 201

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Quand la migration forge le leadership

Room 201

French

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Amira Bouallagui

Présidente, AmiraBou SCICC

Et si l'expérience migratoire révélait un leadership d'un nouveau genre ? Cette conférence explore comment les chemins traversés par les personnes immigrantes – entre résilience, adaptation et vision – forment des leaders ancrés dans l'humain. Elle invite à repenser nos cadres professionnels pour accueillir cette richesse, et transformer la diversité en véritable moteur de renouveau collectif.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 213/215

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Workplace Well-being: Grief and Loss Experiences Occurring Within the Workplace

Room 213/215

English

In-Person

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Catherine Hajnal

Grief and Trauma Educator, Life Fundamentals

Being grief-informed includes acknowledging and supporting losses that come to the workplace in our service participants' stories and the personal stories of our colleagues. Less well understood, though similarly important, are losses that arise within our workplaces. Examples include losses linked to changes in our organizations, moral injury, or the loss of a colleague or service participant.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 205/207

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Carousels - Day 2

Room 205/207

English

In-Person

Carousels consist of two 25-minute sessions and are a great way to learn in a less formal setting. Delegates choose a roundtable then rotate to another table of their choice after 25 minutes. Carousels accommodate 15 attendees per table.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 214

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

EDI-AR for Everyone: Exploring Culture Through Constructive Conversations

Room 214

English

In-Person

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Emma Shiroma-Chao

International Student Career Advisor, Memorial University of Newfoundland

With an increasingly diverse workforce, cultural competence is a critical skill for career practitioners, employers and jobseekers alike. However, opportunities to exchange our experiences of culture and identity can be rare, despite the potential for learning. This interactive workshop, suitable for anyone, will demo a dialogue-based activity to dive beneath the surface of the Iceberg Model of Culture and explore topics of cultural humility, positionality and identity awareness.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 206/208

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Breaking or Building? A Public Employment System at Risk

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Donnalee Bell

Co-CEO, CCDF

Sareena Hopkins

CEO, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Is Canada's jobs-first model failing jobseekers? With little time to address complex needs, many are stuck in a "spin-cycle" of services. A national randomized trial found In Motion & Momentum+ led to 30% higher employment and gains in hope and mental health, while traditional services declined. Join us to explore what works, what doesn't, and how evidence-informed policy and practice can build a system where all jobseekers have the support they need to thrive.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 210

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

From Frontline to Leadership: Lessons Learned from New Career Centre Directors

Room 210

English

In-Person

Senior Leaders

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Dinuka Gunaratne

Director of Career Development and Experiential Learning, Northeastern University - Vancouver Campus

LeChelle Saunders

Director Student Experience and Success, Niagara University in Ontario, Vaughan Campus

Punita Lumb

Director, Student Engagement & Campus Life organization, University of Toronto, Scarborough Campus

This panel session explores the transition from frontline roles to leadership in career centres, with a focus on lessons learned from new and emerging directors. Panelists will share real-world insights on navigating team management, building leadership credibility and leading change in post-secondary environments. Special attention will be given to the experiences of equity-deserving leaders and strategies for creating inclusive, equitable teams.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 209

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

From Patchwork to Policy: Building a National Framework for Employment

Room 209

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Akosua Alagaratnam

Executive Director, First Work

Janet Morris-Reade

CEO, ASPECT BC

Kevin McNichol

CEO, Prospect Human Services

Valérie Roy

CEO, AXTRA

As Canada's labour market continues to evolve, the need for a co-ordinated, future-focused federal employment strategy has never been greater. This session will explore how Canada can move beyond fragmented and reactive approaches to employment services by developing a national framework that is strategic, inclusive and resilient. Participants will examine the limitations of the current system – often marked by shifting political priorities and regional disparities.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Room 212

02:45 PM - 03:45 PM

Leveraging Adult Learner Internships to Empower Underrepresented Groups

Room 212

English

In-Person

Specialized Career Supports and Programs

Kiki MacDonald

Employment Facilitator, Momentum

This interactive session will explore innovative best practices for developing and implementing short-term internship programs that specifically empower adult learners from underrepresented groups. Participants will gain practical strategies for navigating the unique challenges and opportunities associated with supporting these individuals, from initial engagement to successful completion. We will delve into methods for building stronger, more sustainable relationships with local employers.

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 3

03:45 PM - 04:00 PM

Exhibitor Showcase and Coffee Break

Canada Hall 3

In-Person

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

04:00 PM - 05:05 PM

Keynote 3: Authentic Leadership: Building Cultures that Thrive on Trust and Vulnerability

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Farah Nasser

Award-winning Journalist & Former Canadian National News Anchor

Why would a prime-time network news anchor leave her industry at the height of her career? For the first time publicly, Farah Nasser shares her journey from the anchor desk to life unscripted. With raw vulnerability, she reveals the hidden cost of inauthenticity in today's society and workforce. With 67% of employees globally feeling disengaged, Nasser's journey serves as a wake-up call for teams who want to foster cultures of trust, enhanced collaboration and innovation. Having conducted thousands of interviews in her 25-year career, from world and industry leaders to A-listers and trailblazers, Nasser exposes how dream careers can crumble ...

Tuesday, Jan 27: Canada Hall 1-2

07:00 PM - 08:30 PM

Rhythms of Recognition: A Cultural Music Ceremony Honouring Career Professionals & Cannexus 20th Anniversary

Canada Hall 1-2

English

In-Person

Elder Rudi Quammie Williams

Performer & Percussionist of African & Caribbean Drumming Traditions

Eunice Keitan

Asian Ancestral Neo-Soul

Gandhaar Amin

Flute Player, Composer, Producer

River Christie-White

Indigenous Hoop Dancer, Musician and Producer

Shereen Ashman (Afua)

Cultural Artist-Scholar, Advisor, Spiritualist, Emcee

Included in your Cannexus ticket Join us in celebration and ceremony at Rhythms of Recognition. This cultural music experience brings together melodies from across traditions to honour the people who power career development in Canada, marking the 20th anniversary of the Cannexus conference. We pay homage to the contributions of career development professionals and the growth that CERIC champions as sector leaders on both the national and international stage. This soundroom of celebration features performances from musicians representing the cultures of Indigenous Peoples of North America, South Asia and the Afro-Caribbean. Culture Curated to Impact Cultural Diplomacy: Represents world music and ...

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Breakfast

Canada Hall 1-2

In-Person

Wednesday, Jan 28: Parliamentary Foyer

07:00 AM - 08:30 AM

Registration

Parliamentary Foyer

In-Person

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

08:00 AM - 08:20 AM

Opening Day 3

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Wednesday, Jan 28: Parliamentary Foyer

08:15 AM - 08:30 AM

Break

Parliamentary Foyer

In-Person

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

08:30 AM - 09:35 AM

Main Stage: Expanding Impact: Becoming the Bridge to Industry that Clients Need

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Ann Nakaska

Consultant, Constructive Careers and Life Designs

Having industry knowledge greatly affects client career planning and decision-making. It is essential that practitioners understand current industry trends to help all clients – including high school and post-secondary students, career changers, 50+ workers and marginalized individuals – transition to the changing workplace. This session explores coming industry trends such as aerospace, 4IR technologies, specific industry technologies and some non-technological work trends.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 214

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Embracing Chaos: Career Theories + Your Practice = Career Superpower

Room 214

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Lisa Bauman

Consultant/Adult Educator, Future Ready Coaching and Consulting

Did anyone predict a "tariff war" in 2025? What about the next disruptor in 2026? As events shift, the chaos feels endless. Rather than resisting uncertainty, we can harness career theories as a superpower. These timeless frameworks transform chaos into opportunity, helping individuals and clients thrive amid change. In this session, participants will discover hands-on strategies to embrace uncertainty and turn it into a career advantage.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 201

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Beyond Career Day: Creating Real Skills Through Industry Partnerships

Room 201

English

In-Person

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Damian Matheson

Director, myBlueprint

Discover how myBlueprint's Industry Immersion Series transforms traditional career awareness into tangible skill development for students. This innovative approach connects Canadian industries directly with students through application-based learning activities, micro-grants and authentic portfolio building opportunities. Learn how this model requires minimal effort from you, while maximizing student engagement and skill development.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 205/207

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

CDP Identity: Competencies, Certification and Figuring Out Who We Are

Room 205/207

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Barbara Wilson

Consulting Director, Challenge Factory

Gillian Johnston

Retired Professor (George Brown College), CDPCBO

Jen Davies

Career Counsellors Chapter, CCPA

Lindsay Guitard

Registrar, Career Certification/NSCDA

Michael Huston

Registered Psychologist and Counsellor, Mount Royal University

We will grapple with CDP identity! This panel of career development experts brings a range of "lenses" through which we will examine some of the factors that affect our identities: CDP practitioner, educator, certification registrar and researcher. At the national level, we will discuss the new national competencies and certification process. Regionally, we will discuss service funding expectations. At the community level, we will discuss adapting to meet the needs of diverse interest holders.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 206/208

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

The Cost of Care: Speaking the Unspoken

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Senior Leaders

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Maryam (Marylyn) Taghizadehbaghi

Career Coach & Workplace Mental Health Researcher, Independent Self-employed

Helping others comes with a cost. This session explores the often-overlooked emotional impact of supporting clients through adversity – highlighting compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma and burnout. Through practical tools and real-world context, participants will learn how to recognize symptoms early and apply sustainable strategies to care for themselves, strengthen workplace culture and foster resilience in the career development field.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 210

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Effervescent Brain: A Revelation for High-achieving Women

Room 210

English

In-Person

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Vicki Noels-Cornish

Owner/Principal Consultant, The Company YOU

This interactive session explores how ADHD presents uniquely in women, particularly those discovering it later in life. Too often, ADHD is framed around deficits, but in reality, it brings incredible strengths – creativity, strategic thinking, humour, relationship-building, and resilience. Through an ADHD basics discussion, self-reflection exercises and actionable strategies, participants will reframe ADHD as a leadership asset and learn how they can foster work or learning spaces that are inclusive.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 209

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

Empowering Students to Explore Careers with Impact Using UN SDGs

Room 209

English

In-Person

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Cheryl Cline

Professor, Queen's University

Miguel Hahn

Senior Career Consultant, Queen's University

At Queen's University we've embraced the UN SDGs to drive change, including in career development. We'll discuss the new Queen's Career Guide to the UN SDGs, our experience running a career planning course with social impact focus, useful ideas and resources, and developments across campus. Finally, we'll lead a discussion of resources and strategies for carrying the work forward together.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 213/215

08:30 AM - 09:30 AM

2020 vs. 2025: EL/WIL Intended Canadian Post-secondary Outcomes

Room 213/215

English

In-Person

Career Education and Learning for K-12 and Young ...

Carolyn Hoessler

Founder and Principal Consultant, Higher Education and Beyond

Lorraine Godden

Educator and Researcher, Douglas College

Morgan Holly Jones

Job Coach

This interactive workshop examines trends in experiential and work-integrated learning intended outcomes in Canadian colleges, polytechnics and universities. Attendees will be guided in reflections and small-group discussions to examine local institutional/context/sector shifts and emerging directions. This longitudinal comparison and future forecasting is grounded in analysis from summer 2020 to spring/summer 2025 and the Outcome-Based Experiential Learning framework.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Parliamentary Foyer

09:30 AM - 09:45 AM

Coffee Break

Parliamentary Foyer

In-Person

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

09:45 AM - 10:50 AM

Main Stage: Thriving Workplaces: Integrating Employer Services in Public Employment Systems

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Sareena Hopkins

CEO, Canadian Career Development Foundation

Tannis Goddard

CEO, MixtMode

What potential could we unlock if employers and workers were supported by the public employment system to thrive at work? Working with Nova Scotia Departments of Labour, Skills and Immigration (LSI) and Economic Development (DED), the Thriving Workplaces project is testing a novel dual-client approach that supports employers and workers/work seekers to find labour market alignment through Magnetic Factors.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 210

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Facing Challenges, Finding Opportunity: Young People in Canada Navigating a New Employment Reality

Room 210

English

In-Person

Workplace, Employers and Employee Careers

Valentina Castillo Cifuentes

Associate Director, Youth & Innovation Project

This session presents the findings of the second year of a six-year study about the employment outcomes and socio-economic status of young participants of RBC Future Launch-funded programs. It offers insights into young Canadians' current reality and what the future of work might look like from their perspective.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 201

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

AvenueNB Cooperative: Employment Services Model for Persons with a Disability

Room 201

English

In-Person

Indigeneity, Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclu...

Nathalie D'Amours

Executive Director, avenueNB Cooperative

This session will provide an overview of the service-delivery model of the avenueNB Cooperative. We are operating a unique and innovative approach based on collaboration while maintaining the autonomy of our 22 member agencies. We will discuss how we got here – our successes, challenges and lessons learned.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 214

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

The Future Just Entered the Room: Welcoming AI to the Employment Table

Room 214

English

In-Person

Innovations and Trends in Career Development

Angela Hoyt

CEO, Evolution Group

Chat GPT

Panellist, OpenAI

JP Michel

Founder, SparkPath Inc

Sarah Delicate

Founding Partner, BBMD

In this provocative session, ChatGPT joins as a live panelist alongside sector leaders to tackle 'the future' of employment services. Watch AI respond in real time to the same tough questions as our human experts. Insightful, emotional and unmissable – this is a bold invitation to imagine what's possible when we stop talking about AI and start working with it.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 206/208

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

The Art of Surrendering: Empowering CDPs and Transforming Client Success

Room 206/208

English

In-Person

Career Development Practices and Theories

Herky Cutler

President/CEO, herkycutler.com

As career development practitioners, our role extends beyond guiding resumes and interviews; it's about nurturing resilience, fostering authenticity, and empowering individuals to forge paths that align with their deepest values and aspirations. Imagine for a moment the power of letting go – letting go of our assumptions about what success looks like, letting go of our need to control outcomes and, instead, embracing the unfolding journey of our clients. This is the essence of surrender.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Room 209

09:45 AM - 10:45 AM

Reflection and Renewal: UBC Career Centre's Journey

Room 209

English

In-Person

Senior Leaders

Career Development Sector Leadership and Advocacy

Kimberley Rawes

Manager, Career and Professional Development, UBC Career Centre

Tony Botelho

Managing Director, UBC Career Centre

This session explores the UBC Career Centre's 2024 journey of reimagining and renewal – highlighting the process, guiding principles and key outcomes that shaped this renewal. Learn how staff and community voices helped shape new directions and new ways of engaging within the campus ecosystem, and be part of a conversation about the future of post-secondary career support.

Wednesday, Jan 28: Parliamentary Foyer

10:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Break

Parliamentary Foyer

In-Person

Wednesday, Jan 28: Canada Hall 1-2

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Keynote 4: NOMAD: Correcting the Narrative & Closing Comments

Canada Hall 1-2

English

French

Hybrid

Susan Aglukark

Performing Artist | Inuit Expert & Indigenous Advocate

Through songs, stories, film, photos and music video tracks, this keynote from Susan Aglukark will take you on the journey of the Canadian Inuit over the last generation, shedding light on some of the psychological and cultural impacts of rapid change in the North. NOMAD also gives a glimpse of the resilience and determination of a people who have maintained a quiet dignity despite near annihilation by disease, impacts of colonization and rapid change – a glimpse of the strengths of the traditional Inuit culture. While NOMAD helps us better understand the effects of colonization and generational trauma caused by the ...



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